

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 1, 2022

Minutes of the Virtual School Committee Meeting, December 1, 2022, Virtual Meeting via Zoom convened at 5:02 p.m. Present by roll call: Michelle Durrance, Jennifer Starr, Jacqueline Weisman, and Nancy De Luca.

Also in Attendance:

Dr. Lisha Cabral, Superintendent; Lynn Souza, Administrative Assistant to Dr. Cabral and School Committee Secretary; and Joe Boerman, ECAT.

Call Meeting to Order:

Chair Durrance called the meeting to order by stating that in keeping with an act relative to extending certain Covid-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency, the meeting will be conducted remotely over Zoom. Attendance by Board members will be remote and remote attendance shall count toward quorum. The meeting will be broadcast live on FaceBook and recorded on ECAT. To use zoom you will need to download the Zoom application or use the link on the agenda.

Update on the Timeline for Blanche Ames Move:

Dr. Cabral said she had just received notification moments ago that inspections were done today at the new school and that it did not qualify for a temporary occupancy permit. She said they had some items that need to be addressed; however, the schedule that has been provided to staff will continue as planned. Beginning on Monday, December 5th the staff can begin to unpack their belongings at the new school between the hours of 4:00 - 8:00 pm. She thanked everyone in the town departments who did the walk-throughs and the construction company for their attention to the tight timeline. She noted that this will be a day to day timeline between moving in on Monday to the students returning from winter break into the new school on January 3rd. She said she hopes that the Central Office will be operational on December 27th contingent upon the occupancy permit. Dr. Cabral said that she will provide another update at the next School Committee meeting on December 15th and that at this moment, the project is on time and significantly under budget.

Public Comment:

None.

Superintendent Notes:

None.

Assistant Superintendent Notes:

None.

School Committee Notes:

Ms. De Luca asked when the EMS Handbook will be presented again.

Dr. Cabral responded that it will be on the December 15th agenda.

Ms. De Luca said she and Ms. Weisman continued to work through the School Committee policies and that they had a productive session today. She noted that they are up to policy letter F and that they are able to make recommendations to the policies in color and will bring them to the School Committee for their approval.

The policies will also be marked with the updated date. She added that the Naming Subcommittee is moving right along.

Dr. Cabral expressed her gratitude to the Policy Subcommittee as it is a tedious process and extremely important.

Ms. Weisman noted that the Budget Subcommittee will meet on December 13th and that she will share the results of that meeting with the School Committee. She said she attended the Municipal Building Committee meeting and that they are talking to the architects about the DPW, Fire, and Police project and when she has more information she will share that with the Committee.

Ms. Starr said that the Drama Club has a production this weekend called "Play On" which begins on Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, 7:00 p.m., and Sunday 2:00 p.m. She congratulated all the students who will be inducted into the National Honor Society next week.

Chair Durrance said that tickets for the play will be available at the door. The Main Street Holiday Parade run by the Lion's Club will be Sunday, December 4th. She noted that the Marching Band will be in the parade and OA Choir will be performing at the Rockery from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. The lighting will take place at the Rockery at 5:00 p.m. Chair Durrance noted that the Robotics Team, RO, and EMS will be participating in the parade. Chair Durrance said that the OA Winter Concert will take place Thursday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m., on December 13th Messiah Sings 7:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, on December 15th is the EMS 7th and 8th grade Winter Concert at 7:00 p.m. and on December 10th from 8:00 - 2:00 the Annual Holiday Shopping Fair to benefit the music department and music programs will take place at OA.

Ms. Starr added that the SEPAC is offering an online meditation workshop which will be open to the EPS community on Monday, December 12th, 6:30 p.m. for 45 minutes and it will be virtual.

Executive Session RE:Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21 (a) 7 - To Comply with Open Meeting Law to Review Minutes of Prior Executive Session 10/6/2022 and Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a) 3 To Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining for Paraprofessional Unit and SPEA Units (Custodial, Secretarial/Clerical, and Food Service):

Chair Durrance made a motion to enter into the Executive Session and will return to Open Session for the purpose to comply with Open Meeting Law to Review Minutes of Prior Executive Session 10/6/2022 and discussion of strategy with respect to bargaining for the Paraprofessional Unit and SPEA Units (Custodial, Secretarial/Clerical, and Food Service) and stated that, in her opinion, having this discussion in public would be detrimental to the bargaining position of the School Committee. Ms. Starr seconded the motion, with a roll call vote of 4-0, the Committee adjourned to enter into Executive Session at 5:16 p.m.

Return to Open Session:

The Committee returned to Open Session at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes: Regular 11/17/2022; Workshop 10/10/2022; Executive Session 10/6/2022, 11/17/2022:

On a motion by Chair Durrance, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a roll call vote of 4-0, the Committee approved the Executive Session minutes of 10/06/2022 but not to be released.

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Starr, with a roll call vote of 4-0, the Committee approved the workshop minutes of 10/10/2022.

On a motion by Ms. Starr, seconded by Ms. De Luca, with a roll call vote of 4-0, the Committee approved the minutes of 11/17/2022 with noted edits.

On a motion by Ms. Weisman, seconded by Ms. Starr, with a roll call vote of 4-0, the Committee approved the Executive Session minutes of 11/17/2022 but not to be released.

Chair Durrance said the next meeting is scheduled for December 15th at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. De Luca, seconded by Ms. Weisman, with a roll call vote of 5-0 , the Committee adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Souza
Secretary